

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 152323Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3693

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONGEN BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BL, GB

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA TO PROPOSE REOPENING TALKS ON BELIZE WITH
BRITISH

1. LUIS AYCINENA, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S LEGAL AFFAIRS AND TREATIES DIVISION, ADVISED THE AMBASSADOR ON JULY 12 THAT GUATEMALA HAS DECIDED TO PROPOSE THE REOPENING OF TALKS ON BELIZE TO THE BRITISH. AYCINENA, WHO MADE REVELATION AT A RECEPTION IN THE PRESENCE OF BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL WEYMES, TOOK A REASONABLE ATTITUDE, SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH GUATEMALAN AND BRITISH POSITION ARE BOTH "FIXED" A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCE. AYCINENA TOLD WEYMES HE HOPED BRITISH WOULD TRY TO DAMPEN BELIZEAN PREMIER PRICE'S UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS AND KEEP HIM FROM PAINTING HIMSELF INTO A CORNER. HE ALSO SAID THAT GUATEMALA HOPED IT COULD COUNT ON THE US FOR GOOD OFFICES.

2. IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, WEYMES SAID THAT DURING HIS FAREWELL COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA, MOLINA TOLD HIM THAT GUATEMALA HAD NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO MAKE AT PRESENT, BUT WOULD APPROACH TALKS WITH POSITIVE ATTITUDE. WEYMES, WHO HAS BEEN PESSIMISTIC OVER POSSIBILITIES OF A BELIZE SETTLEMENT, IS NOW MUCH MORE HOPEFUL.

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3. COMMENT: WHILE GUATEMALA'S OVERTURE IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, WE ARE NOT SO HOPEFUL AS WEYMES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOLUTION. WE PLAN TO ENCOURAGE TALKS AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES, BUT WILL BE CAREFUL NOT TO ALLOW OURSELVES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.
MELOY

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